

REMARKS

All pending claims stand allowed. Claims 14, 26-28 are pending and were allowed in the previous Office Action. All of the other claims 1-13, 15-25, and 29-35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

No new subject matter has been added to the application.

The specification is amended to properly identify the reference numerals 4A, 4B and 4D in Figure 1, and 16A and 16B in Figure 4. The objection to the drawings is overcome by these amendments.

All of the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103 are respectfully traversed by the cancellation of the rejected claims.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify and clarify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without cancelling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary to overcome the rejections of the Final Office Action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed but is not considered material to the patentability of the invention.

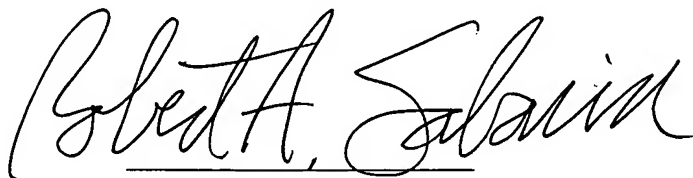
No fees are believed to be due with this response. However, if an error has been made in the fee calculations, this is a general authorization to charge any fees due and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3377.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the objections and/or rejections and pass the application to issue in view of the above amendments and/or remarks.

It should be noted that the above arguments are directed towards certain patentable distinctions between the claims and the prior art cited. However, the patentable distinctions between the pending claims and the prior art cited are not necessarily limited to those discussed above.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that each rejection of the Office Action has been addressed and overcome so that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the rejections and/or objections, and pass the application to issue. Should questions arise during examination, the Examiner is welcome to contact the applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert A. Sabourin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert A. Sabourin
Attorney Reg. No. 35,344

Agfa Corporation
Law & Patent Department
200 Ballardvale Street
Wilmington, MA. 01887-1069

Tel: 978-284-5604
RAS/pc